Usefulness of National Identity Cards

832. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item "Mother of l-Cards: 5000 crore", appeared in the Indian Express dated the 13th January, 2003; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government have made any indepth study about its usefulness and implementation;

(c) whether this exercise of spending Rs. 5,000 crore for new Multipurpose National Identity Card (MNIC) worth when we have already spen enough for electoral identity card; and

(d) what purpose will be served when there exists an identity card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present, only a Pilot Project is being undertaken by the Government in a few selected sub-disricts of various districts of 13 States, which will cost approximately Rs. 18 crores. Since the Electoral identity cards issued by the Election Commission of India is not a universal system of identification based on compulsory registration of Indian citizens, the proposal of issue of Multipurpose National Identity Cards to the Indian citizens cannot be linked with it.

(d) Multipurpose National Identity Cards, apart from providing a credible individual identification system, would also have multifarious socio-economic uses.

Banning of Gelatine

833. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gelatine is used by naxalites in landmines and claymore mines to attack patrols;